

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place the application in a position for allowance. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 53, 54, 57 and 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have been amended to do this. Claims 53 and 54 depended from claim 47 and the limitations of that claim are inserted. Claims 57 and 58 depended on claim 49 and the limitations of that claim have been inserted.

Applicants note that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 47-50 based on "new matter" objected to the limitation that the inhibition process should be applied only to Gram negative bacteria. Without addressing the merits of this rejection, applicants have deleted that limitation from the amended claims as the bacteria that are targets are defined already in claims 53-54 and 57-58. Thus, the new matter rejection is obviated as well.

Only claims 47-50 were rejected over the art; these have been canceled. The limitation of claims 48 and 50 (the same limitation in each case) reappear in new claims 59-62 which depend, however, from the allowed claims.

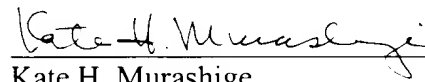
It is believed that the appropriate is now in a position for allowance and passage of claims 53-54, 57-58 and 59-62 to issue is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 524182000400.

Respectfully submitted,

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